

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (original) A device for feeding pulverized coal to a furnace, which comprises in combination a feed hopper (1) incorporating a needle valve arrangement (3) and a depth gauge micrometer (8) capable of controlling and measuring the feed rate; the feed hopper (1) being provided on the external periphery with a pneumatic vibrator (2); the feed hopper (1) being also provided at the bottom end with a distribution chamber (6) having primary (4) and secondary (5) compressed air-lines, the distribution chamber (6) being provided with means for connecting to a furnace reactor (7).

Claim 2 (original) A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the feeder hopper (1) is made of a non-reactive material.

Claim 3 (original) A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the feeder hopper (1) is made of stainless steel.

Claim 4 (original) A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the needle valve arrangement (3) consists of feed rate control means (3.1, 3.2 and 3.4) to control the feed rate through vertical movement of needle (3.3).

Claim 5 (original) A device as claimed in claim 3 wherein at least one feed rate control means comprises a movable roller (3.2).

Claim 6 (original) A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the depth gauge micrometer (8) capable of measuring the feed rate is connected through the movable roller (3.2) to the

needle valve arrangement (3).

Claim 7 (original) A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the pneumatic vibrator is provided with compressed air adjustment means to adjust pressure of compressed air.

Claim 8 (original) A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the distribution chamber (6) connects the feed hopper bottom and furnace reactor (7).

Claim 9 (currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the distribution chamber (6) is connected to the feed hopper bottom and furnace reactor (7) by ~~means such as a flange-joint~~.